

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9179

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0787

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NU

SUBJECT: FY 77 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 036160 (DTG 131859Z FEB 76)

IN REPLY TO REFTTEL, FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUBMITTED KEYED TO
PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5:

PARA 4 NOT APPLICABLE AS NO MAP-M FUNDS ARE PROJECTED FOR
FY 77.

PARA 5A. WE ASSUME THAT INDICATED CREDIT WILL BE ACCEPTED
AND CONSUMMATED IF OFFERED AS CURRENT CREDITS OF \$5.5 MILLION
(FY 75 AND FY 76) ARE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET GON GOALS FOR FORCE
MODERNIZATION.

PARA 5B. CURRENT CREDITS ARE BEING USED TO PURCHASE
SMALL ARMS, HELICOPTERS, ENGINEER COMMUNICATIONS, AND OTHER
SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT. FURTHER CREDITS WILL BE USED TO SUPPLE-
MENT THESE BUYS AND, POSSIBLY, TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENTS FOR THE
STAGHOUND ARMORED CARS.

PARA 5C. THE STATED POLICY OF THE GON IS TO MAINTAIN A
FORCE CAPABLE OF DEFENDING AGAINST INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS
AND, WITH NO SERIOUS OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY, THIS FORCE FULLY MEETS
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US POLICY FORCE GOALS.

PARA 5D. ALTHOUGH THE FSLN IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONTROL, THE GON CONSIDERS IT AN ACTIVE AND CONTINUING THREAT. IN THE ABSENCE OF A GRANT MATERIAL PROGRAM, CREDIT REMAINS THE ONLY TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUAN EFFORTS TO COUNTER CONTINUING, COMMUNIST GUERRILLA ACTIVITY.

PARA 5E. THE CREDIT PROGRAM IS AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR TRANSITIONING FROM MAP MATERIEL TO DIRECT FMS AND COMMERCIAL SALES.

PARA 5F. ONE OF THE FEW VIABLE AND KEY INSTITUTIONS IN NICARAGUA IS THE GUARDIA NACIONAL. BY PROVIDING MILITARY CREDITS, THE USG MAINTAINS ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE GUARDIA NACIONAL AND HELPS TO INSURE THE FUTURE USE OF US MANUFACTURED EQUIPMENT.

PARA 5G. THE STATED GOAL OF LIMITING THE GUARDIA TO DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES SHOULD HAVE THE EFFECT, IF ANY, OF REDUCING ANY REGIONAL PROPENSITIES TOWARD IMBALANCE OF ARMS OR ARMS RACE.

PARA 5H. BECAUSE OF LIMITED AVAILABLE FUNDS AND THE GON-PERCEIVED NEED FOR RAPID MODERNIZATION OF THE GUARDIA, CREDIT ASSISTANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO INFLUENCE THE GON AND THE GN TO PURCHASE US MANUFACTURED EQUIPMENT. WITHOUT SUCH CREDITS, THE GON MIGHT WELL LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR ASSISTANCE.

PARA 5I. PROJECTED CREDIT LEVELS ARE SUCH THAT THEY SHOULD NOT INTERFERE OR PLACE AN UNDESIRABLE BURDEN ON THE HOST GOVERNMENT. MANAGEMENT OF THE FY 75 CREDIT PROGRAM INDICATES THAT PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE TIMELY AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CREDIT IS CAREFULLY CONTROLLED IN ORDER TO BE USED AS PLANNED.

PARA 5J. NONE.
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